

Serial No.: 10/728,258
Art Unit: 3739

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the objection to the specification and the rejection of the present application is solicited.

The informalities of the specification have been amended as recited hereinabove without new matter. Withdrawal of such objection is requested.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the US 2003/0060813 reference to Loeb et al. Independent claim 24 has now been amended to include the visualization port and the laser fiber both within the balloon and both individually steerable. Such a feature not being shown or suggested by any of the art!

Independent claim 1 has been similarly amended to recite the use of both an independently steerable port and a laser fiber bendably disposed within the balloon, which feature is not shown or suggested by the art of record. In the '483 Campbell reference, the laser fiber is movable only axially and rotationally, see col. 3, lines 63-65 thereof. There is no possibility of such steering or bending. The '052 Loeb reference has its laser fibers arranged on the outside of the balloon, where cooling thereof may be difficult. The reference to Kleiner US 2004/0249243 discloses no such features of Applicants. The '849 reference to Gowda et al., on col. 10, line 28, thereof teaches "axial" movement

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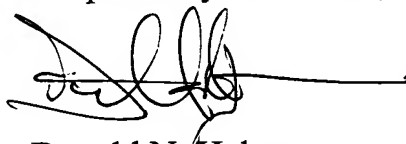
by its optics. As above, the Loeb et al. US 2003/0060813 reference makes no teaching of laser and optical steering within the balloon. It provides a "guesswork" of target positioning by an outside alignment protuberance (62), as recited on page 5, paragraph [0068] thereof.

Extraneous claims have also now been cancelled.

Applicants thus request that the Examiner's objections and rejection of the present application be withdrawn and this application be passed to allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any issue remains unresolved, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for a discussion of same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald N. Halgren', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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